

BEFORE THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Washington, D.C.

DOCKET SECTION

In the matter of

DISCOVERY AIRWAYS, INC.

for a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued under Section 401(d) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended.

DOCKET 46393

In the matter of

DISCOVERY AIRWAYS, INC. and MR. PHILIP Y. HO

DOCKET 46760 -

THE UNIONS' CONTINGENT REPLY TO THE ANSWER OF PHILIP HO TO PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION AND

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE

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June 11, 1990

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On June 8, 1990, Philip Ho submitted an unauthorized Answer to Discovery Airways' Petition for Reconsideration of Order 90-3-48. If that Answer is accepted for filing by the Department, the Union parties to this proceeding, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the Air Line Pilots Association, and the Association of Flight Attendants, respectfully request leave to file this Reply thereto.

The stated purpose of Mr. Ho's latest filing is to "advise

the Department" that he has decided "to dispose of substantially all of his voting interest in Discovery." Mr. Ho contends that this decision on his part "eliminates totally the 'Ho/Nansay' foreign control issue" from this case, and therefore should cause the Department either to cancel or at least postpone "for several weeks" the hearing in this case.

Even if everything Mr. Ho says is true, we fail to see what it has to do with Discovery's Petition for Reconsideration of Order 90-3-48, or how it obviates the need for a hearing in this case. Order 90-3-48 "expand[ed] the scope of the issues in the proceeding in Docket 46760 to include the issue of Discovery Airways' compliance disposition." Mr. Ho's proposed sale of his investment in Discovery neither affects Discovery's compliance disposition nor obviates the Department's reasons for ordering a full hearing on that issue.

As Mr. Ho's filing itself indicates, the sale of his stock could only affect the other issue in this proceeding, which Mr. Ho calls "the Ho/Nansay foreign control issue." That issue is entirely separate from the issue of compliance disposition, and was made the subject of this hearing by the Department's earlier Orders 89-12-41 and 90-1-60, before the question of compliance

¹ Mr. Ho's pleading is not entirely clear as to precisely how he intends to "dispose of" his "voting interest." We assume he is talking about an outright sale of at least 75% of his shares in the company.

disposition was raised. Thus, even if Mr. Ho were correct that his proposed stock sale eliminates the need for a hearing on the "Ho/Nansay foreign control issue," the compliance disposition issue would still remain to be considered.

Nor would the sale of Mr. Ho's stock eliminate the need to inquire into the circumstances surrounding his original investment. There is substantial evidence to indicate that Mr. Ho never intended to make, and did not make, a bona fide personal investment in Discovery; that his purported personal investment was simply a sham designed to give a false appearance of U.S. citizen control of the carrier. This issue would have to be explored as part of the issue of compliance disposition even if Mr. Ho were now to dispose of his interest in Discovery.

Moreover, Mr. Ho's announced unilateral decision to sell does not necessarily mean that a sale will actually take place.

Mr. Ho could change his mind again or, perhaps more importantly, he could fail to find a buyer for his investment. The founders of Discovery spent approximately a year seeking investors for their company before they found Nansay and Mr. Ho, and that was before the carrier was burdened by its present legal and financial difficulties. It is therefore entirely possible that, under present circumstances, Mr. Ho will be unable to sell his stock at all, despite his announced desire to do so. And it is certainly unreasonable to expect that any such sale will take

place in the space of just a few weeks.

But even if a sale of Mr. Ho's stock were to take place, and even if that sale eliminated the need for a hearing on the "Ho/Nansay foreign control issue," a full examination of the compliance disposition issue would still be required, including an examination of the nature and circumstances of Mr. Ho's original investment. Therefore, the mere announcement of Mr. Ho's intention to sell his stock is certainly no reason to cancel or delay the hearing in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 11, 1990

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 11th day of June, 1990 I caused a copy of the foregoing Reply to the Answer of Philip Ho to Petition for Reconsideration and Motion for leave to file to be served by hand delivery or first-class mail on each of the following individuals:

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